



NEWS RELEASE

18-141a

Date: Tuesday, July 31, 2018

District: 8 – Riverside/San Bernardino

Contact: terri.kasinga@dot.ca.gov

Phone: (909) 383-4631 or (951) 232-4268

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



UPDATE

Caltrans Emergency Work to Restore State Routes 74 and 243 #CranstonFire

SAN BERNARDINO – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is continuing work on State Routes 74 and 243 (SR 74 and SR 243) to make repairs under a \$5 million Director's Order (emergency contract) as the result of the Cranston Fire. Ames Construction is working on burned sign removal and delineation now and will begin guardrail replacement operations tomorrow.

SR 243 remains closed from Lower Saunders Meadow to SR 74. The SR 74 is now closed from Lake Hemet to Valle Vista. Lake Hemet residents and employees will be permitted. There is no day use or fishing allowed at Lake Hemet until further notice.

There is the possibility of monsoon storm activity today and possibly the rest of the week. Caltrans is alerting motorists and residents that debris flows and flooding is a possibility and precautions should be taken to avoid travel during storms. If you are involved in a debris or water flow – DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE THROUGH IT!

- Avoid travel during storms. Move to higher ground and stay away from creeks, rivers, flood channels and drainage areas.
- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control and potential stalling.
- A foot of water will float many vehicles, including larger vehicles and trucks.
- Two feet of rushing water will carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pickups.
- According to the U.S. Geological Survey, water one foot deep typically exerts 500 pounds of lateral force on a vehicle.
- Once your vehicle is floating, the floodwater becomes your steering wheel. If that water is moving, your vehicle could be swept away, tipped on its side or flipped.
- Rising water can enter your vehicle in a manner of minutes, even seconds.
- National Weather Service has campaigned for years: ["Turn around, don't drown!"](#)

The best advice we can give is to never drive through flood waters of unknown depth. If you are stuck in your vehicle underwater, you need to act quickly:

- Find a pocket of trapped air, usually against the rear window or roof.
- Roll a window down slowly, take a deep breath and be ready to swim.



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- If the window won't open, break the window with a rescue tool (Swiss Army knife, for example).
- Do NOT wade through water - just 6 inches of flowing water can knock you off your feet.

Please follow us on Twitter at Caltrans8 or monitor traffic conditions on Caltrans Quickmap at <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>.

Weather: <http://www.weather.gov/>

Road Closures: <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/> and <http://www.rctlma.org/trans/>

Riverside County Emergency Management: <http://www.rvcfire.org>

San Bernardino National Forest closure: <https://goo.gl/9hh7ef>

Source: <https://weather.com>

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